The implementation of formula of survival in Southtyrol (trilingual alpine area): 493,910 inhabitants – 21,000 course participants – 1 course center

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Introduction: We will report that the formula of survival: "Survival = Transfer from Medical Science to Education to LOCAL Implementation" can be realized by a strong territorial approach dealt by a central education center inside a global strategy for a well defined territory.

Material & Methods: Southtyrol: Since the 1990ies the Medical Emergency Association White Crosse decided to increase the Educational Activity in the area of Southtyrol: 493.910 inhabitants - 7.399,97km2 - 66,6 inhab./km2 - 3 languages (German, Italian & Ladin). The range of Life Support courses: from first aid courses for population until highly advanced simulation for emergency personal. On demand in all three official languages.

Main actions:
1) A professional logistic structure with education office and logistic has been created and enhanced
2) Educational experiences of the countries with the same languages (German/Italian) has been used
3) National and International Standard courses (AHA American Heart Association, ERC European Resuscitation Council, SIMEUP Italian Society for Paediatric Emergency Medicine) influenced the internal training programme with scientific input.
4) Courses of SIMEUP/ERC has been implemented in the training programme for the own staff and for healthcare providers in the area of the public southtyrolean Health Trust
5) Special attention for training in the paediatric field (PBLS/PALS Paediatric Basic/Advanced Life Support) in cooperation with paediatric scientific societies.

Results: we reached the following numbers of course participants in year 2008: industries 6294, schools 1987, public Administration1093, White Cross Emergency Staff 10130, Members of White Cross Association 367, Individuals 202, Health trust 834, Total participants/Year2008: 20907

Conclusions: We conclude that a well professionalized training center with logistics to cover the own territory for all target groups from lay people to health care providers is an important step to approach the aim of formula of survival. We demonstrated that important numbers can be reached.

We underline the importance of cooperation with national and international scientific societies to keep a high quality level of education in emergency medicine.